36. 24

A Farther STATE of the

CASE

Relating to the Brafs Manufacturers:

Particularly as it relates to the Numbers of Poor Families Employed by them, and the Improvement made, and to be made, in the ſaid Manufactures, if the Encouragements they Petitition for are obtained.

THE Petitioners in the Firſt Repreſentation which they made of their Caſe to the Honourable *Houſe of Commons*, contented themſelves with ſaying in general, that they employed many Thouſands of Poor People in the Digging, Fining, Working, *&c.* their ſaid Manufactures; knowing the ſame was ſo obvious to the moſt Common Underſtanding, and ſo particularly known to many Worthy Members of this Honourable Houſe, that they thought it ſtood in need of no Evidence, and that no Objection could be made to it.

But having ſince found their Oppoſers making uſe of every Shift to reproach and reflect on their ſaid Undertaking, andthat amongſt the reſt they repreſent the ſame as inconſiderable, of ſmall Uſe or Benefit to the Publick, extending but to few Things, not brought to Perfection, or able to perform the Fine Works in Braſs, which the Poor of many Places in *England* are employed in, and particularly that it employs very few People.

The Petitioners to remove thoſe Objections, detect the manifold Falſhoods of the Oppoſers, and in Order fully to lay before this Honourable Houſe the True State of the ſaid Manufactures, do with all Humility repreſent the following Particulars, which they are ready to prove by ſufficient Witneſſes, whenever they ſhall be required.

Firſt, They humbly repreſent, that their Manufacture is founded on the only Foundation which makes any Manufacture Conſiderable, and eſpecially Valuable to a Nation, (*viz.*) that is from its Original to its Finiſhing wholly compoſed of our own Produce, and wrought by our own People, and has the ſame Claim to be wrought at Home as our Woollen Manufacture has, becauſe the Wooll is our own: Aud they cannot but add, that it ſeems a very great Loſs to the *Engliſh* Trade that Foreign Battrey, Black Lattin, and Metal-prepared, ſhould be Imported from Abroad, when all the Materials for making the ſame are of our own Growth, and our own Poor ſtand ſtill for want of Employment.

They humbly repreſent, that the Braſs they work is extended as far, brought to as much Perfection, and capable of making every Thing that the Foreign Imported Braſs is or can be; and that with the Encouragement they now Petition for, they are capable, not only of making all Things made of Braſs, which this Nation and all Her Majeſties Dominions can uſe, or have Occaſion for; but they hope in Time to be able to Export great Quantities thereof to other Countries, to the great Gain of this Kingdom, and Encreaſe of Employment for the Poor.

And as to the Number of Poor People which they have alledged are now employed in their ſaid Works, they humbly refer the Honourable Houſe to a Scheme of the Numbers now employed in the ſeveral Parts of the ſaid Works in *England*, which is now lying before the Committee Appointed to conſider of their ſaid Petition, whereby more particularly it appears,

I. That above 12350 Families are conſtantly employed in raiſing the Copper Oar in the Counties of *Devon* and *Cornwall*, and in the carrying thereof from the ſeveral Mines to the Sea-ſide, beſides at leaſt 40 Sail of Ships or Veſſels for the carrying it from thence to *Briſtol*, *Wales*, and ſundry other Parts, in order to the refining and turning the ſame into Braſs; for the Truth whereof they humbly appeal to the Honourable the Members which are of the ſaid Counties.

II. That above 2500 Families are conſtantly employed as well in digging, calcining, carrying, and preparing, *Lapis Caliminaris*, for the turning the ſaid Copper into Braſs; as alſo for melting, working, and refining the ſaid Copper Oar, and carrying it again, and melting the ſame again in other Places, together with the ſaid *Lapis Caliminaris*, to turn it into Braſs, and in raiſing Pit-Coal, making Charcoal, and carrying the ſame to the ſaid reſpective Works; and in Digging and Carriage of 300 Ton of *Sturbridge* Clay for the ſaid Works, *&c.*

III. That above 6500 Families are conſtanly employed in the manufacturing the ſaid Braſs after it is ſo made, as Firſt into Battrey or Kettles, alſo into Wire Ingots of Braſs or Metal prepared for the Founders and then by the ſeveral Workmen that work the ſame into all Sorts of ſmall Braſs Wares fit for Uſe, in the carrying and recarrying the ſame to the ſaid Workmen, and from them to the Market; ſo that at leaſt 21250 Families are employed by theſe ſaid Manufactures of Copper and Braſs in this Kingdom: All which is an Improvement to the Trade of this Kingdom within few Years paſt.

They humbly repreſent farther, That whereas this great Number of Poor are employed, and ſo great an Improvement is made, notwithſtanding the Diſcouragements which they complain of, the Diſadvatntages of the Draw-backs of Foreign Battrey Exported, the low Duty on Metal-prepared and Black Latin, and the Frauds committed in the ſame; and while they do not, by reaſon of thoſe Diſadvantages, ſupply above one half of the Braſs Wares made uſe of in this Kingdom; they may be ſuppoſed to employ double the ſaid Numbers of Poor when they have encreaſed their Trade, as they hope to do.

So that in all Probability the whole being in Time brought to be our own Manufactures, above 50000 Poor *Engliſh* Families, will be employed in it, which according to the Calculation of but Three to a Family, which is the loweſt Account that can be ſuppos'd, Amounts to 150000 People Subſiſted by this ſingle Manufacture, which in the preſent general Decay of Manufactures, they hepe will be allowed a conſiderable Advantage to the Nation; eſpecially conſidering, that before this all our ſaid Braſs-works were bought from Abroad, and maintain'd the like Number of Families and Poor of the *Dutch* and *Flemings*.

They alſo humbly repreſent, That there has been above 150000 *l.* Sterling loſt in the ſeveral Attempts for the ſaid Mineing, Fineing, and bringing the Arts of making the ſaid Braſs to Perfection, which they hope gives them ſome Title to the Concern and Conſideration of the Parliament, that ſo Beneficial an Undertaking may not be loſt to the Publick, or the Undertakers diſcouraged in their Endeavour to recover their ſaid Loſſes.

All which is humbly ſubmitted to this Honourable Houſe.

A Farther STATE
OF THE
CASE
Relating to the
Brass Manufacturers